

Application No.: 10/519781
Amendment dated: June 22, 2009
Reply to Office action of January 22, 2009

AMENDMENT OF THE DRAWINGS

Please add the attached new sheet of drawing.

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The abstract has been shortened to fewer than 150 words, and amended to avoid reference to "the invention" and "means."

Headings have been provided in the specification.

A new figure 3(a) has been added, and the specification amended to make reference to Figure 3(a). The new figure is essentially an enlargement of a part of Figure 3, which shows the flattened side and the recess.

Claim 8, which was found allowable, has been rewritten in independent form. Minor changes have been made in the language imported into claim 8 from claim 1 primarily to conform to U.S. practice. These changes are:

(a) changing "the longitudinal direction" to "a longitudinal direction in order to obviate the issue of antecedent basis;

(b) changing "and that the sliding bearings" to ", wherein the sliding bearings," for grammatical consistency;

(c) elimination of the term "characterised in that," which comes from "*dadurch gekennzeichnet*," used in Germany to introduce the point of novelty in a Jepson claim;

(d) inserting the comma in "curved configuration, and".

New claim 9 is similar to claim 8, but slightly broader in that it is not limited to a carrier having "a cross section which is *substantially of the geometry of a semicylinder*. . . ." Instead, claim 9 recites that

"the sliding bearings (6a) are fitted onto metal carriers (6b) each having a flattened side and a recess formed in said flattened side, the recess extending in the

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longitudinal direction and receiving a sliding bearing
(6a)."

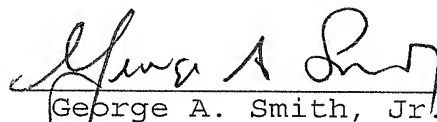
No corresponding structure is found in or shown to have been obvious by the prior art of record.

New dependent claim 10 defines an advantageous structure in which the sliding bearing is a plastic material while the carrier is metallic. Claim 10 recites that "the sliding bearings (6a) are composed of a non-metallic plastic material." As explained in the original version of the paragraph on page 7, at lines 13-18, the metal carrier makes it possible to reduce the cross-sectional area of the plastic sliding bearing and at the same time make use of the higher level of thermal conductivity of the metal of the carrier. The concept of a metal carrier having a flat with a recess receiving a plastic sliding bearing is also missing from the prior art.

The amendments herein are believed to address all of the issues raised in the Office action and to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and issuance of a notice of allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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